

Lesson Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

Lesson ID: 92559-38115

Title: MARINE CORPS SECURITY FORCE (MCSF) COMPANY

Operation/Exercise Name: MARFOR PROMOTE LIBERTY Observed: 13 Jun 1990

Originator: COMMARFOR PANAMA

POC: LTCOL FAWCETT Commercial: (919)451-2620 DSN: 4842620

5. (U) OBSERVATION:

Marine Corps Security Force (MCSF) Company was a valuable asset to Marine Forces (MARFOR) Panama, but lacked adequate transportation assets to properly perform military operations in urban terrain (MOUT) or mobile combat patrols.

6. (U) DISCUSSION:

MCSF company consists of 119 officers and men. Table of organization (T/O) weapons and equipment include 4 M60E3 machine guns and 3 Suburban vans for transportation. Throughout operation PROMOTE LIBERTY, the company was operational control (OPCON) to Marine Forces (MARFOR) Panama. This has proven to be a viable command relationship. A permanent part of the United States (U.S.) Naval presence in the canal area, MCSF Company familiarity with the immediate area of operations (AO) has been a valuable asset. Furthermore, their strength as infantry has proven useful for contingency planning and actual operations in the field. Currently, the company provides site security for the Arraijan Tank Farm and Galeta Island. Additionally, it serves to augment the Navy's Security Force aboard Rodman Naval Station and is prepared to provide reaction forces to reinforce other tactically important objectives as necessary. A major weakness is the unit's lack of organic, tactical vehicles. Present organic transportation assets are inadequate to effectively support MOUT operations in Panama City or mobile combat patrols in the AO.

7. (U) LESSON LEARNED:

The use of MCSF Company to reinforce or support Marine Air Ground Task Forces was a good idea.

8. (U) RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Study transportation needs in light

of potential MCSF Company security/operational commitments in support of a deployed Marine Air Ground Task Force (MAGTF). Anticipate the unit will require enough High Mobility Multipurpose Wheeled Vehicle (HMMWV) variants and/or 5 ton trucks to move at least a fully equipped platoon in a single lift.

9. (U) COMMENTS:
None stated.

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